



BRING

reduce | reuse | recycle | rethink

BRINGrecycling.org

4446 Franklin Blvd.
Eugene, OR 97403
p: (541) 746-3023

board of directors

Sonya Carlson
PRESIDENT

Tim Cling
VICE PRESIDENT

Marcia Whisler
SECRETARY

Doug Griesel
TREASURER

Ron Blacquiere
Liz Cawood
Britni Jessup
Elver Jimenez
Todd Johnston
Pamela Martindale
Justin Schmick
Shannon Schmitt
Jim Sly
Jeanne Staton
Rebecca Taylor

Attn: Senator Lee Beyer, Chair
Senate Committee on Energy and Environment
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Chairman Beyer and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to offer BRING Recycling's support for Senate Bill 570. BRING is a Lane County based non-profit organization that has helped our community develop new and effective solutions to waste and pollution for 50 years. Extended Producer Responsibility programs (EPR), paid for by those that manufacture and profit from the products that are sold in Oregon, is critical to protecting the environmental quality Oregonians are justly proud of. We believe that SB 570 will provide an effective EPR program for mattresses.

SB 570 establishes a statewide EPR program for the collection and environmentally-sound management of mattresses. The bill requires manufacturers to develop a stewardship organization that will take responsibility for financing and implementing the program. It is expected to create new jobs at facilities set up to recycle mattresses; return their component parts (including metal, foam, and wood) to industries that can use them to create new products; divert waste from landfills; and create safer working conditions for employees at landfills and other waste management facilities where mattresses are difficult to manage.

The mattress recycling program will be financed by manufacturers through an assessment fee collected at the point of sale on all mattresses sold in the state. Collected funds will be sent to a stewardship organization charged with implementing the program. The program will describe how the stewardship organization will manage mattresses in an environmentally-sound manner, advertise collection opportunities to the general public, and meet the collection convenience standards established under the legislation. The convenience standard will ensure both urban and rural areas of the state are adequately served.

Each day in the U.S. more than 50,000 mattresses are discarded. Much of this bulky, cumbersome waste ends up in the nation's landfills and imposes significant costs to local governments for its management. Less than five percent of mattresses are recycled annually, despite the fact that up to 90 percent of mattress components are recyclable. Reusing and recycling, rather than landfilling unwanted mattresses, reduces waste, creates jobs, conserves natural resources, and reduces greenhouse gas emissions and energy use. BRING urges you to support the passage of SB 570.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Stein,
Executive Director